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The six hundred and fiftieth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 19th March 1968.

Chairman: Dr. J. F. Monk.

Members present: 12; Guests, 2.

Mr. J. H. Elgood spoke on some birds of Nigeria, illustrating his talk with coloured slides and an exhibition of skins including *Malimbus ibadanensis* which he discovered at Ibadan, described and named in *Ibis* during 1958. Recordings of bird calls and songs made at Ibadan were played.

The type-locality of White-quilled Rock Pigeon,
***Petrophassa albipennis* Gould**

by SHANE PARKER

Received 8th December, 1967

The White-quilled Rock Pigeon was described by J. Gould (Gould, 1841: 173-4) from a male and female obtained from the "most rugged and sterile districts of the north-west coast of Australia" by officers of H.M.S. *Beagle* (Gould, 1843: pl. 71), and now in the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia (de Schauensee, 1957: 164). Mathews (1912: 28) restricted the type-locality to Wyndham, and described a new race, *P. a. alisteri*, from Napier Broome Bay, but Whittell (1954: 101) showed that the types of *albipennis* actually came from the vicinity of King Sound.

The precise type-locality may be ascertained from an account of the Australian voyages of the *Beagle* by her commander, John Lort Stokes (Stokes, 1846: 109-11:): "Feb 10 (1838) . . . We found a temporary anchorage the same morning, on the east side of the large group forming the eastern (?sic) side of Sunday Strait . . . This group we called after Lieutenant Roe, R.N. . . . Nothing could exceed the desolate appearance of the land near which we were now lying: rocks, of a primitive character, massed together in all the variety of an irregularity . . . rose, drear and

desolate, above the surrounding waters; no trees, shaded their riven sides, but the water-loving mangrove clothed the base of this sterile island, and a coarse, wiry grass was thinly spread over its sides.

“(Feb. 11) . . . Some rather small pigeons (*Petrophila albipennis* Gould), of a dark brown colour, marked with a white patch on the wings, were seen, and some specimens shot. They made a whirring sound in flight, like the partridge, and appeared to haunt the rocks; a habit which all subsequent observation confirmed.”

The anchorage referred to would have been on the easternmost and second largest of the islands now called the Sunday Islands; only the small northernmost islands of the group are still named the Roe Group. The type-locality of *Petrophassa albipennis* Gould may therefore be accepted as the easternmost of the Sunday Islands, 123° 13' E, 16° 24' 30" S., at the mouth of King Sound, north-west Australia. This seems to be the first record of this species' occurrence on an off-shore island. The elucidation of the type-locality casts much doubt upon the validity of Mathews' race *alisteri* (q.v.).

References:

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Mathews, G. M., 1912. *The Austral Avian Record*, vol. 1, no. 2.
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Whittell, H. M., 1954. *The literature of Australian birds*. Perth.

On the Thick-billed Ground Dove *Gallicolumba salamonis* (Ramsay)

by SHANE PARKER

Received 6th February, 1968

Nothing is known of the Solomon Islands Thick-billed Ground Dove, *Gallicolumba salamonis*, besides the descriptions of the only two specimens, the holotype from San Cristoval (Ramsay 1882) and a second specimen from Ramos Island between Ysabel and Malaita (Mayr, 1945: 228). The holotype, an adult male, in the Australian Museum, Sydney (registered number A. 13406) was purchased by the Museum of the collector, Mr. John Stephens, in 1883, in a collection of 91 bird skins obtained by Stephens at Wanu on San Cristoval and on the nearby island of Ugi. Stephens' original blue label is now missing, but the date of collection was given by Ramsay (1882: 300) as April, 1882, during which time Stephens was at Wanu or Wano [= Wanga or Wango Bay, 10° 18' S., 15 miles E.S.E. of Cape Recherche, the northernmost tip of San Cristoval, *vide* Findlay, 1884: 842-3] which may be accepted as the type-locality. The second specimen, from Ramos, in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, was obtained by members of the Whitney South Sea Expedition.

It is surprising that the three main collecting parties to San Cristoval since the discovery of this ground dove, Albert Meek's in April-May, 1908 (Parker 1967: 135), the Whitney South Sea Expedition in 1927 and 1929,